

# MaineDOT BikePed Funding Program

**Please note: MaineDOT's BikePed Funding Program was formerly known as the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Transportation Enhancements, Quality Communities, and Safe Routes to School Funding programs.**

## [General Information about the BikePed Funding Program](#)

MaineDOT's federally-funded BikePed Funding Program was created to help communities improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, and to provide transportation options that relate to surface transportation under the eligible categories outlined under the FAST Act and prioritized by MaineDOT. These priorities include:

- a. Improved safety for walkers and bikers
- b. Safe Routes to School for non-drivers
- c. Pedestrian & Bicycle Facilities
- d. Utilization of Transportation Corridors for BikePed Trails.

The BikePed Program principally supports locally-initiated projects that improve the community's transportation environment, economic vibrancy, safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, downtown revitalization initiatives and environmental mitigation. There is a required 20% non-federal share required under the federal requirements.

Funding opportunities are available to help expand transportation choices and enhance the transportation experience through eligible activities related to surface transportation, including pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, safety programs, ADA Accessibility projects, and efforts to ensure that school age children can safely access their local schools and afterschool programs. Projects must relate to surface transportation and must qualify under one or more of the eligible categories outlined under the FAST Act. The FAST Act is the primary source of funding for bicycle and pedestrian stand-alone projects in the United States and in Maine. Successful projects must demonstrate that they will provide improved access or improve safety conditions.

More detailed information on this funding under the FAST Act can be found here:

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation\\_alternatives/guidance/guidance\\_2016.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/guidance/guidance_2016.cfm)

## Application Process

- MaineDOT annually allocates the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program about \$3.0 million in federal funds for this statewide program. Each project has a 20% local match requirement with a maximum federal allocation of \$400,000 per project.
- MaineDOT is currently accepting applications for projects that can be designed with construction dates in the next 3-years. Communities seeking construction before then will need special approval and must contact the BikePed Program Manager to discuss their application.

Below is the process for project identification and application for available funding:

- Step 1. **Phone Call:** Call the MaineDOT BikePed Program Manager at (207) 624-3311 to discuss project ideas at any time.
- Step 2. **Site Visit:** After your initial phone call, schedule a site visit to explore and discuss project alternatives, funding opportunities, and the current application process.
- Step 3. **Complete Application:** To be considered for future funding, an eligible applicant must complete MaineDOT's current BikePed Funding Program Application. The application must be completed in its entirety and include detailing and specific information. To maximize the likelihood of your project being selected for funding and to ensure that you have provided all of the required information, MaineDOT encourages communities to utilize the most current Application Scoring Form as a guide when completing the application.
- Step 4. **Secure Local Match:** Before a community can submit their application to MaineDOT for consideration, they **MUST** secure their non-federal matching funds (a minimum of 20% of the total project cost). Local guidelines and requirements will determine the process your community will follow to secure the required non-federal match. Documentation indicating that the non-federal match has been secured must be provided as part of the community's application materials.
- Step 5. **Submit the Application and Supporting Materials:** MaineDOT's BikePed Program has an open and rolling application process. However, to be considered for the next annual funding period, completed applications must be submitted **by no later than** July 15<sup>th</sup>. Submit one electronic version of the completed application via email followed by a printed version containing original signatures submitted by US Mail.
- Step 6. **Decision:** In September of each year, the MaineDOT BikePed Program will review and score all eligible and completed applications for projects that were received prior to July 15<sup>th</sup>. These applications will have been signed and include all the required information including documentation that the non-federal match

has been secured. Projects will be selected for funding based upon the application's overall points awarded with those applications with the highest scores having the highest priority. Projects in the prioritized list will be selected until the available funding has been exhausted.

Step 7. **Announcement:** Projects selected for future funding will be announced in January of each year once MaineDOT releases its updated 3-Year Work Plan. Recipients will receive notification by US Mail that includes the assigned Project Manager and their contact information as well as additional pertinent information.

Step 8. **Second Chance:** Applications that **are not** selected for funding may be selected at a future point in time. Communities whose applications are not selected for future funding will be notified by US Mail sometime in January once MaineDOT's Work Plan is released. The notification will include the completed scoring rubric so the community will know which sections of the application were stronger and which ones needed more information.

These communities will have the opportunity to meet face-to-face with the MaineDOT Program Manager to discuss their application and the application's scoring results. Non-funded communities can then update and resubmit their application once they have provided additional information to address those sections of the application where points were not awarded. These applications will be considered during the next round of funding.

## [Application Materials](#)

- **Application Form:** (please note that a site visit by the MaineDOT Program Manager and documentation that the required non-federal match has been secured are required before the Application Form may be submitted.)
- **MaineDOT Scoring Criteria Form:** MaineDOT encourages applicants to utilize the Scoring Criteria Form to guide them in the development of their responses to the individual question on the Application Form.

## [Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\)](#)

Though no longer a formal program under the FAST Act, Safe Routes to School Projects remain an eligible activity under this funding source. MaineDOT continues to fund and prioritize SRTS projects utilizing the previous guidance provided by FHWA. SRTS Projects enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to safely walk and bicycle to/from school and after-school activities. Major goals of the program are to increase bicycle, pedestrian and traffic safety, and to assist communities in improving conditions for walking and bicycling to school. MaineDOT seeks projects that substantially improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle within two miles of

an elementary or middle school. These applications may be submitted throughout the year as part of MaineDOT's rolling application process.

Safe Routes to School programs are intended to provide resources for infrastructure improvements and activities to increase the number of students walking and bicycling to school and after school activities. Infrastructure improvements such as school zone lights, traffic calming and sidewalk improvements are intended to be part of a larger effort within communities to improve conditions and raise awareness of the benefits of walking and biking to school. The Safe Routes to School Program provides funding for projects within two miles of an elementary or middle school. Infrastructure improvements must be within two miles of a school to make walking and biking safer for students (e.g. sidewalks, signage, crossings, bike lanes, traffic calming, etc.). In Maine, SRTS projects have a higher priority for funding consideration each year. Funding for SRTS projects requires a 20% minimum non-federal match.

For specific questions, additional information, or to schedule a site visit for your community, please contact Patrick Adams, the MaineDOT BikePed Program Manager by phone at (207) 624-3311 or by email at [patrick.adams@maine.gov](mailto:patrick.adams@maine.gov).